

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of determining a most suitable cell during network acquisition for a cellular communications device, comprising determining a most suitable cell based on a characteristic of signals received from a plurality of cells, the signals from each cell being provided over a band of frequencies, and the said determination said method comprising:

_____ the steps of taking a series of measurements of the said characteristics characteristic for each frequency of a first frequency band, so as to obtain an average measurement value of said characteristic for each frequency of said first frequency band, wherein each measurement in the said series is taken for all of the frequencies in the said band before the next measurement in the series is taken, and the said the series of measurements on each frequency said first frequency band are equally spaced in time, and serve to provide with equal time intervals therebetween; and for further processing of signals from network cells or reception and processing of signals from cells of another network

_____ during the time intervals between measurements for said first frequency band, taking a series of measurements of said characteristic for each frequency of a second frequency band.

2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ characteristic comprises the signal strength.

3. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ characteristic comprises a derivative of the signal strength.

4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ series of of

measurements comprises a series of five measurements.

5. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ each of said equal time intervals ~~are each is~~ in the order of 0.5 second.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim ~~6-19~~, wherein one ~~radio access technology operating mode~~ comprises GSM, and ~~a second radio access technology the other operating mode~~ comprises UMTS.

8. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, ~~and for use with~~ wherein said first and second frequency bands operate in a single operating mode, ~~cellular communications device in which and~~ second stage search operations are conducted during the said equal time intervals.

9. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 8, wherein ~~the~~ said second stage operations are conducted on cells found to have high signal strength after ~~initial~~ the first measurement.

10. (Currently amended) A cellular communications device ~~including means for~~ determining a most suitable cell during network acquisition for a cellular communication device, based upon a characteristic of signals received from a plurality of cells, the signals from each cell being provided over a band of frequencies, ~~the said means for determining said~~

cellular communication device comprising:

a first unit means for taking a series of measurements of the said characteristics characteristic for each frequency of a first frequency band, so as to obtain an average measurement value of the characteristic for each frequency of the first frequency band,
~~wherein each measurement in the said series is taken for all the frequencies in the band before the next measurement in the series is taken, and such that the said the series of measurements on each frequency the first frequency band are equally spaced in time, so as to serve to provide with equal time intervals therebetween; and for the further processing of signals from the network cells~~

a second unit for taking a series of measurements of the characteristic for each frequency of a second frequency band during the time intervals between the measurements for the first frequency band.

11. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said characteristic comprises the signal strength.

12. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said characteristic comprises a derivative of the signal strength.

13. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said series of measurements comprises a series of five measurements.

14. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ each of said equal time intervals ~~are each is~~ in the order of 0.5 second.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim ~~15-20~~, wherein one ~~radio access technology operating mode~~ comprises GSM₁ and a ~~second radio access technology the other operating mode~~ comprises UMTS.

17. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 10, ~~and wherein said device is~~ for use with a single mode cellular communications device, ~~in which and~~ second stage search operations are conducted during ~~the said equal~~ time intervals.

18. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in Claim 17, wherein ~~the said second stage operations are conducted on cells found to have high signal strength after initial~~ the first measurement.

19. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first and second frequency bands operate in different operating modes.

20. (New) A device as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said first and second frequency bands operate in different operating modes.